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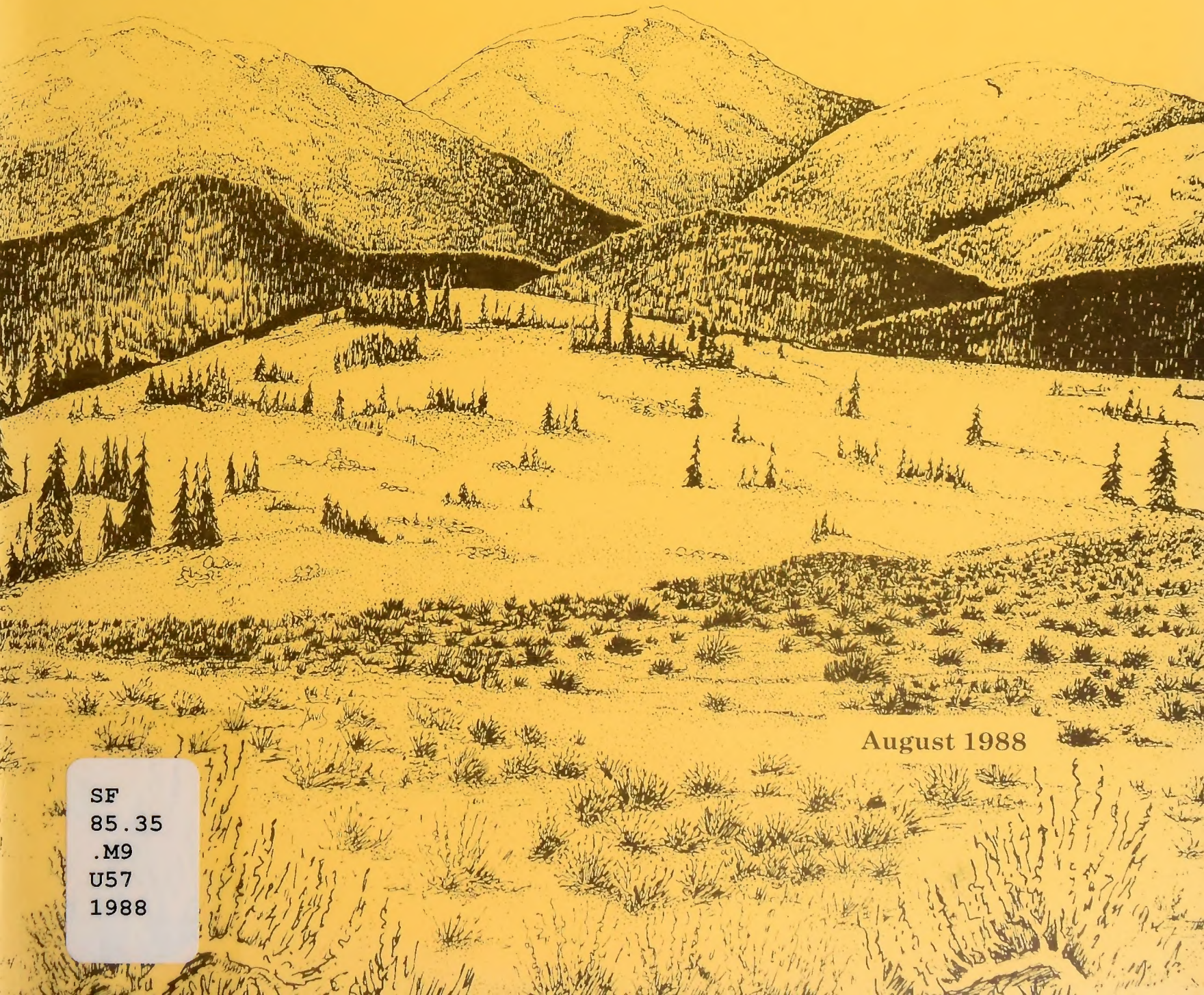


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RANGE PROGRAM SUMMARY

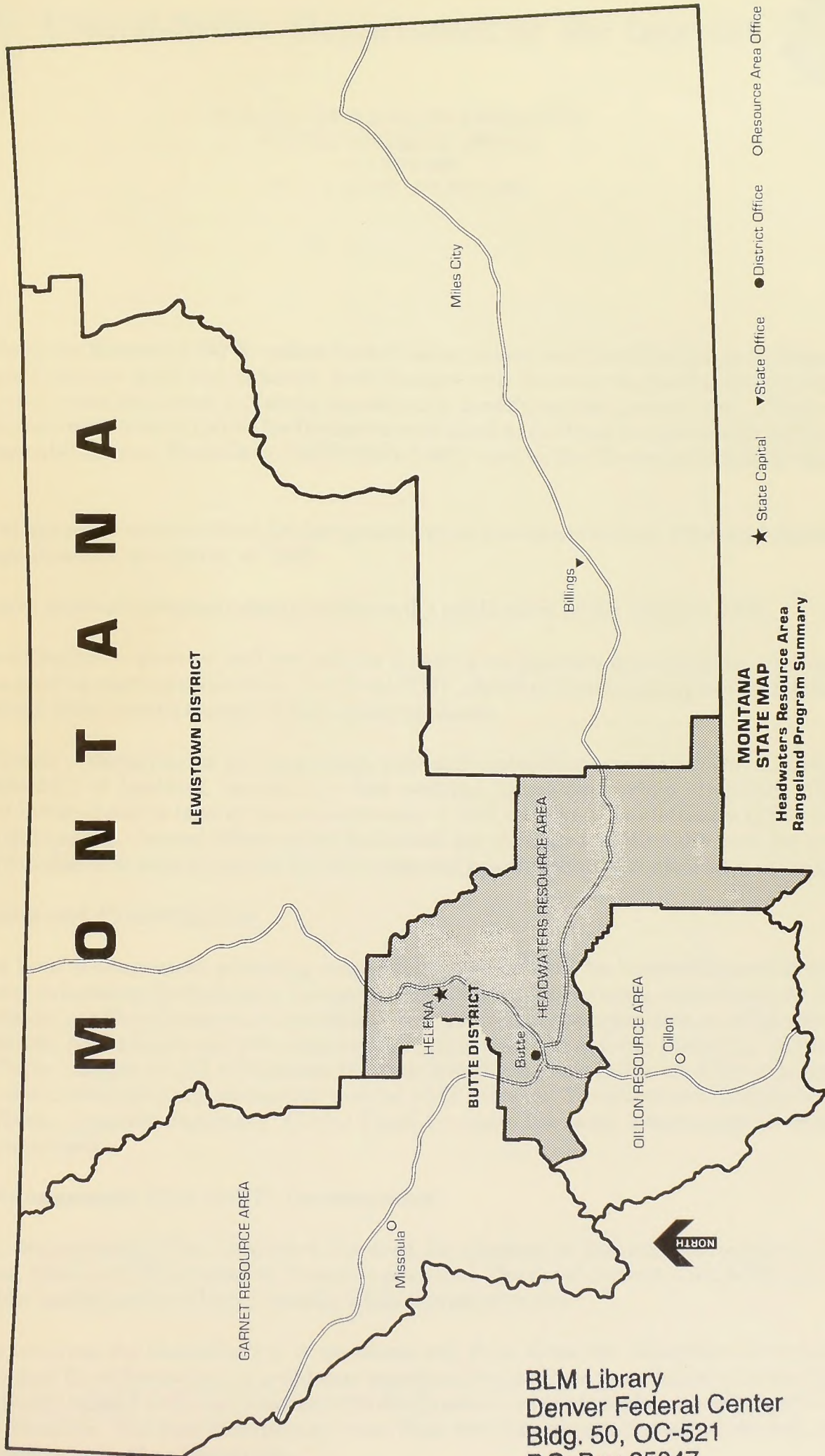
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Headwaters Resource Area



August 1988

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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
BUTTE DISTRICT OFFICE
P.O. BOX 3388
BUTTE, MONTANA 59702-3388



IN REPLY TO:
4000

Dear Reader:

This Range Program Summary (RPS) update describes the present status of the Range Management Program in Headwaters Resource Area and explains how changes will be made in grazing management on specific allotments based upon proposed decisions/agreements modifying the grazing use. These proposals were developed in conformance with Land Use Decisions published in the Headwaters Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) (1983), and in the Record of Decision for the RMP/EIS (July, 1984).

The original range program statement for the resource area was issued in July, 1984, and there has been a subsequent update issued in the spring of 1985.

Two issues have received increased emphasis since the publication of the original RPS;

1. Riparian initiative — policies and procedures focusing on riparian management were developed in the RMP as a grazing management issue. Since the RMP, riparian management has been broadened into all management areas and has received increased emphasis.
2. Noxious weeds — the spread of noxious weeds, primarily spotted knapweed but also including some troubling infestations of toadflax, spurge, etc. has received increasing public attention. While the known acreage of infested public land in the resource area is still relatively small (under 1,000 acres), the rate of spread is increasing. Control efforts must be funded out of funds traditionally used for project construction, and considerable time is needed for planning and coordination of control with other effected parties.

Categorization and Prioritization

As part of the land management planning process all areas allotted for livestock grazing were categorized into one of three categories (M-maintain, I-Improve, C-Custodial) based upon a set of criteria which included: resource condition, conflicts in resource uses (existing or potential), opportunities, need for adjustment in livestock use level, etc. All I allotments were then ranked (prioritized) for activity planning, implementation and monitoring. Table 1 displays all I allotments, the year monitoring was initiated, AMP implementation date, and the date of multidisciplinary evaluation and/or AMP revision. The allotment ranking was contained in the original Range Program Summary. Tables 2 and 3 contain the same information for M and C category allotments respectively.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP) Development

The Resource Management Plan identified the need for changes in grazing management. To bring these changes about, Allotment Management Plans are prepared. The development of an AMP involves a series of steps and public participation which typically takes 2 years or more.

The first step involves the identification of problems and from these the objectives for management of the allotment. Much of the information on problems/opportunities is already available but typically several allotment field visits are needed as is consultation with the livestock owner to make an assessment of the allotment management situation. The multidisciplinary team then develops alternative solutions and an environmental analysis dealing with the alternatives.

At this point monitoring is initiated, or an evaluation is conducted if monitoring data is available, to measure changes in resource conditions.

An alternative is then selected for implementation and is put in place by a decision or agreement. To date the Headwaters Resource Area has not had to implement an activity plan by decision. All have been by agreement. This has been largely due to close consultation and coordination with affected interests.

Once the agreement is in place, implementation begins. Implementation may involve changes in season of use, change in type, class, or kind of livestock and/or structural or land treatment projects. Rotational grazing of pastures is often prescribed as part of the new management plan.

Structures or land treatment project development may take several years depending on availability of funding, weather conditions, etc. To varying extent, the implementation of changes in season, use patterns, class of stock, etc. may depend on the structural developments e.g. water in remote unwatered areas or more water for hot season use of uplands.

The allotment then typically goes through a period when fine tuning of the management system and close coordination between the range conservationist and a permittee are needed.

Through the use of monitoring, which is jointly accomplished with the range user, the effectiveness of the new grazing management system in meeting plan objectives is evaluated. This process leads to a yes or no situation:

yes; objectives are adequate and being met — leave it be.

no; objectives are inadequate or are not being met — plan is revised.

Specific Actions Proposed in this Update

The first specific action is to announce those allotments which are next in line for activity planning (AMPs) or have plans partially completed at this time. Table 4 contains a summary of these allotments. It should be noted that some of the allotments shown have an existing plan which is being revised (major revision) as a result of monitoring and evaluation.

In the second specific action, the Whiskey Gulch Allotment has been managed as two separate allotments since construction of Interstate 90 separated the allotment geographically. To reflect this, a new allotment name has been assigned to the portion of the allotment northwest of Pipestone Hot Springs. This area will be called the Big Pipestone Creek Allotment (#0230). The area southwest of Pipestone Hot Springs will continue to be called Whiskey Gulch (#0228).

In the third specific action, several allotments are being considered for recategorization as part of the ongoing evaluation process. The proposed recategorizations are in response to changed resource conditions, opportunities to implement different management, or better information about existing conditions obtained from inventory or monitoring. These proposed changes are summarized in Table 5.

The fourth specific action will result in the selection of a new operator for the Whiskey Gulch Allotment (0228). The new operator will be selected from applications on file. There also may be a possible adjustment in the level of use.

In the fifth specific action, the Q and Q Common Allotment has a possible AUM adjustment identified due to the intermixed land pattern (Burlington Northern leased land and BLM) and a disparity in the way the allocations have been handled on the adjacent lands. This action will require further field work by BLM employees and coordination and consultation with Burlington Northern and the leasee/permittee on the allotment.

In the sixth specific action, two adjacent sections of land acquired through exchanges since completion of the Headwaters RMP have been identified for exclusion of livestock grazing. The tract consists of 1,280 acres in T14N, R4W, Sections 31 and 32.

In the last specific action, a new grazing preference of 12 AUMs has been allocated for the Lone Mountain West Allotment (#7722). This allotment has been grazed historically, although has never had a permit prior to this. The allotment is being placed in the "I" category primarily due to riparian concerns.

More detailed information or copies of the proposed allotment management plans are available at the Butte District Office, Headwaters Resource Area.

Parties who have an interest or are potentially affected by the proposals and who wish to receive a copy should request the information in writing, specifying the allotment name and number by September 30, 1988. Protest and appeal provisions of 43 CFR 4160 will apply from the date of receipt of a copy of an allotment action.

Requests for information should be addressed to:

Area Manager
Headwaters Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 3388
Butte, Montana 59702

TABLE 1
I CATEGORY ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Monitoring Initiated	YEAR		
			AMP Impl	AMP Eval	AMP R
0201	Missouri	77			
0209	Dowdy Ditch	81			
0210	County Line	80			
0212	Boulder River	87	80		
0215	Breaks	77			
0219	Log Gulch SGC	82			
0220	Bull Mountain	68	67	78	
0225	Keating Gulch Common	77			
0227	Kimber/Diorite	70	71	78	80
0230	Big Pipestone Creek	69	67	78	80
0231	High Ore	77			
0233	Indian Creek	80			
0234	High Peak	87			
0235	Devils Bottom	87			
0238	Pole Canyon	81			
0242	Whitetail Basin	77	79		
0243	Devils Fence	71			
0245	Sugarloaf	77	84		
0247	Rawhide	81	87		
0248	Little Boulder	69	70	82	82
0249	Muskrat	77	87		
0258	Ringling Rocks	68	68	78	79
0261	Flood Place	87			
0263	Buffalo Creek	87			
0264	Huller Spring	81			
0271	Sappington Spring	81			
0273	Limestone Hills	61	84		
0281	Limestone East	79			
0282	Summit	81			
0284	Copper City	77	86		
0285	Cottonwood	77			
0287	Horse Gulch	81			
0294	Rattlesnake	87			
0301	Copp-Jackson	71	71		
0303	Moose Cr.-AMP	70	70		80
0316	Redfern	76	79		
0318	Jerry Creek	68	69	78	87
0319	Gneiting	76			
0341	Deno Creek	79	78	80	
0342	Limekiln	79	78	80	
0343	Quartz Hill	67	83		
0351	Alder Creek	67			
0358	Spring				
0373	Pipestone	81			
0375	East & West Pastures	77			
0376	Toston Canal	78			
0398	Sixmile	81			
0401	Confederate Gulch	81			
0414	Pole Gulch				
0424	Greyson Creek	87			
5412	Gold Run Creek	79	86		

TABLE 1 (Continued)
I CATEGORY ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	Monitoring Initiated	YEAR		
			AMP Impl	AMP Eval	AMP R
5505	Airport				
7704	Oxbow	82			
7713	Danas Bar	76			
7715	Centennial Gulch	81			
7718	Wickiup Creek	87			
7719	Sheriff Gulch	81			
7722	Lone Mountain West				
7804	Empire Creek	65	87		
7809	Gloster	82	87		
7810	Edwards Mountain	77	75	84	
7811	Drumlummon-Skelly	66	72	81	83
7813	Cemetary	76			
7818	Skelly Gulch	82			
7822	Iowa Gulch	77			
7823	Iron Siding	74			
7824	Granite Creek	81	88		
7827	Blue Cloud	74	84		
7959	Buffalo Hump				
7960	Whitetail Creek	80	78	78	86

TABLE 2
M CATEGORY ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	YEAR			
		Monitoring Initiated	AMP Impl	AMP Eval	AMP R
0202	Q & Q Common	75			
0203	Alta Mountain	81			
0204	Amason	77			
0205	Wicks	81			
0207	Prickly Pear Creek				
0211	North Dougherty Mtn.	81			
0213	Silver Sage				
0216	Black Sage	81	86		
0217	South Dougherty Mtn.	81			
0218	Dry Creek	77			
0221	Yellowshack				
0222	Whitehorse	70			
0223	Beaver				
0228	Whiskey Gulch	69	78	80	
0232	Keating Individual	81			
0239	Big Foot	77	81		
0240	Rocky Canyon SGC	81	81		
0241	Galena Gulch	78	82		
0244	Cable Gulch				
0246	Boomerang	81			
0250	Milligan Canyon Common				
0252	Gregor Mountain	81			
0253	Dutchman Creek				
0254	Free Coinage				
0255	Clancy Gulch	81			
0257	Lump Gulch	82			
0262	Wood Gulch	81			
0266	Elkhorn Creek				
0272	Riverside School	77			
0274	Rattlesnake Creek	82			
0275	Cottonwood Common	79			
0279	Bald hills SGC	82			
0283	Jack Mountain				
0288	Sunlight				
0291	Lower Johnny Gulch	82			
0293	Lone Mountain				
0295	West Keating Gulch				
0296	Sec 33 Allotment	77			
0308	Fitz Creek	77	86		
0312	Maiden Rock	79			
0381	Dunbar Springs				
0383	Roy Gulch	81			
0384	Upper Sixteen Mile				
0387	Sixteen Mile	81			
0392	Gardeen Gulch				
0403	Iverson				
0425	Wall Mountain				
0426	Lower Duck Creek				
0439	Klondike Claim				
5402	CL&D				
5430	Gaging Station				
5445	McAdows Canyon				
5452	Wineglass Mtn.				
5489	LV Quarter Circle				
5493	Mountain Range				

TABLE 2 (Continued)
M CATEGORY ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	YEAR			
		Monitoring Initiated	AMP Impl	AMP Eval	AMP R
5496	Green Mountain				
5507	Sixmile				
5519	Slaughterhouse				
5529	Chuck Reid				
5531	Ellis Basin				
5551	Poison				
5563	Donald Wood				
5575	Lower Mission Creek				
5583	Carbella				
7601	Little Creek				
7705	Sheep Creek				
7707	Spring Gulch				
7709	Sieben	81			
7710	Hilger Hills	81			
7711	Prickly Pear Peak	81			
7714	MT Bend-Powerline	76			
7720	Spokane Hills	81			
7802	Virginia Creek				
7816	Saint Louis Gulch	76			
7821	War Eagle Hill	81			
7830	East Scratchgravel				
9822	Goat Mountain				

TABLE 3
C CATEGORY ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	YEAR			
		Monitoring Initiated	AMP Impl	AMP Eval	AMP R
0206	Staubach Creek				
0214	Rattlesnake Creek				
0224	Clark Gulch				
0226	Individual				
0229	Beaver Creek				
0237	Emigrant Creek	79			
0251	Nineteen Mile				
0256	Spokane Creek				
0259	Rear Place				
0260	Wickham Place				
0265	T4N, R6W, Sec 6				
0269	Corbin				
0270	Blackjack				
0277	Brown's Gulch SGC				
0278	Hill & Wilkerson SGC				
0280	Willow Spring Road				
0286	Smith Individual				
0289	Individual SGC				
0290	Jackson Creek				
0292	Ralls Mines				
0297	South Beacon				
0298	Little Butte				
0299	Dry Hollow				
0300	Seymore SGC*	78			
0304	Leffler Creek*				
0309	Moose Creek-Non AMP				
0334	MT. Haggin Individual*				
0338	Pendergast				
0339	Deep Creek**	77			
0340	Leffler Creek	77			
0350	Kearns Individual				
0352	Harriet Lou Creek				
0359	Farnham Creek				
0361	MT. Humbug				
0360	Beavertown Creek				
0370	Two Heart		84		
0371	Fish Creek SGC				
0372	Rader				
0382	Deer Park				
0389	Madison Buffalo Jump				
0391	Big Davis Gulch				
0396	North Duck Creek				
0397	Ingleside Quarr				
0402	Hidden Hollow				
0409	Rocky				
0411	Little Rocky Canyon				
0423	Shadoan Sawmill				
0441	Spring Creek				
0442	Upper Dry Creek				
0445	Round Grove				
0446	Ray Creek				
0449	Papoose				
0451	Minnie Creek*				
0453	Chalk Bluff				
0454	Walker Creek				
0462	Squaw Creek*				

TABLE 3 (Continued)
C CATEGORY ALLOTMENTS

Allotment Number	Allotment Name	YEAR			
		Monitoring Initiated	AMP Impl	AMP Eval	AMP R
0480	Tucker Creek				
0506	Mt. Haggin Ind.				
0508	LaMarche Creek*				
0515	Big Hole*	78			
0541	York Gulch				
0545	Aqueduct				
0548	Cottonwood Gulch				
0660	Deno Creek				
1018	Little Helgate				
1025	Sitzer Gulch				
3101	East Trident				
5400	West Dexter Point				
5410	Miner Creek				
5415	Brackett Creek				
5420	Suce Creek				
5421	North Creek				
5433	Sheep Creek				
5436	Soldier Creek				
5442	Falls Creek				
5447	N. Fiddle Creek				
5462	Ferry Creek				
5469	Work Creek				
5472	Willow Creek				
5482	Duck Creek				
5487	Quinn Creek				
5497	Grizzly Creek				
5506	Strickland Creek				
5518	Wayne Peterson				
5521	Locke Creek				
5526	Redfield Lake				
5538	Yellowstone				
5539	South Fiddle Creek				
5577	Hot Springs				
5579	Chadbourne				
7577	Area Creek				
7703	Holter Lake				
7706	Burker Creek				
7801	Deer Creek				
7805	Gravelly Range Lake				
7806	Ogilvie Creek (Gulch)	76			
7807	Beartrap Gulch				
7808	Lost Horse Creek				
7814	Park Gulch				
7815	Willit Ridge				
7817	Spring Gulch				
7819	Iron Ridge				
7820	Greenhorn Gulch				
7826	Ten Mile Creek				
7828	Seven Mile				
7833	W. Jackson Creek				
7940	Delmoe				
7948	Toston				
7958	Noel				
7961	Mills				

*These allotments are proposed to be re-categorized as 'M'; maintain present resource conditions.

**This allotment is proposed to be re-categorized as 'I'; improve present resource conditions.

TABLE 4
ALLOTMENTS FOR WHICH PLANS ARE
UNDER DEVELOPMENT

Allot. #	Allotment Name	FY Projected Completion
0318	Jerry Creek (Revision)	88
0231	Hi Ore	89
0376	Toston Canal	89
0303	Moose Creek (Revision)	89
0319	Gneiting	
0301	Copp-Jackson (Revision)	
0228	Big Pipestone Creek	
0401	Confederate Gulch	
7713	Danas Bar	
7715	Centennial Gulch	
7718	Wickiup Creek	
0233	Indian Creek	
7818	Skelly Gulch	

TABLE 5
ALLOTMENTS PROPOSED FOR
RECATEGORYIZATION

Allotment Name	Allot. #	Move From Category	To Category
Minnie Creek	0451	C	M
La Marche Creek	0508	C	M
Big Hole	0515	C	M
Leffler Creek	0304	C	M
Mt Haggin Ind.	0334 & 0506	C	M
Seymore	0300	C	M or I
Deep Creek	0339	C	M
Squaw Creek	0462	C	M or I

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Bureau of Land Management

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